

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Indochina/Thailand/Burma

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 25 JUL 49

SUBJECT Presence of Vietnamese Partisans at Kengtung

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1. Fifteen Vietnamese arrived in Kengtung, Burma, from Yunnan about 20 April 1949.* Head of the group was a former Hanoi medical student named Hue. The group claimed that they were members of the Viet Nam Quoc Dan Dang (VNQDD), and that they were delegates from a group of more than one hundred young Vietnamese presently located on the Sino-Burmese border. Each member of the group was armed with a carbine and a pistol.
2. The aim of this group was to join the Lao Issara and fight against the French. Hue contacted Prince Souphanavong who was in Kengtung about this time. Prince Souphanavong went to see Le Van Long,** Chief of the Viet Minh in Burma, but Long disapproved of any collaboration with the group.*** The Prince, thereupon, refused the aid of the VNQDD partisans.
3. After this rebuff, Hue proposed to Prince Souphanavong that they sell their stock of arms, mostly of German manufacture. After the sale was to be concluded, the group planned to move to the Thai frontier. There has been no report confirming the sale.

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Comment: For information on Viet Minh activity in the Kengtung area see

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** Comment: The most significant item in this report is the powerful role of Long, Chief Viet Minh Communist at Kengtung.

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